

Message Text

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ACTION STR-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 STRE-00 OIC-02
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USMTN USEEC

STR FOR ACTION AND PASS CODEL

E.O. 11652 N/A
TAGS: ETRD, MTN, BE, CA
SUBJECT: MEETING WITH AUSTRALIAN MINISTER FOR SPECIAL
TRADE REPRESENTATIONS

1. ON MONDAY, FEB 27, AMBASSADOR MCDONALD MET WITH A
GROUP OF OTHER DELEGATION HEADS WITH MINISTER R. V.
GARLAND OF AUSTRALIA. HIS MAIN PURPOSE IN GENEVA WAS TO
GET AN OVERVIEW OF MTN PROGRESS, ASSESS THE PACE AT WHICH
NEGOTIATIONS ARE MOVING AHEAD AND INFORM HIMSELF PER-
SONALLY ON THE MAIN MTN ISSUES.

2. THE POINTS COMING OUT OF THE GENERAL DISCUSSION OF
BROADER INTEREST ARE AS FOLLOWS:

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A. GARLAND SAYS THAT AUSTRALIA WOULD BE SUBMITTING
ITS OFFERS WITHIN THREE WEEKS.

B. AS A COROLLARY, AMB FARNON OF NEW ZEALAND SAID
THAT COUNTRY WOULD HAVE THEIR OFFERS IN GENEVA WITHIN
TWO WEEKS.

C. CLEARLY, GARLAND IS WORRIED THAT AUSTRALIA HAS LITTLE TO GAIN ON A BILATERAL BASIS THAT WOULD IMMEDIATELY AFFECT ITS TRADE. HIS MOST IMPORTANT CONCERNS RELATE TO THE TREND FOR AGRICULTURAL MARKETS TO BE INCREASINGLY PROTECTED, THUS REDUCING AUSTRALIA'S OPPORTUNITY IN THIS AREA.

D. MCDONALD, STRONGLY SUPPORTED BY LUYTEN OF THE EC, REMINDED GARLAND THAT THE TOKYO ROUND COVERS FAR MORE THAN THE STRICTLY BILATERAL ELEMENTS OF EARLIER MTN'S. IT WAS PARTICULARLY POINTED OUT THAT AUSTRALIA SHOULD BE AN ACTIVE PARTICIPANT IN AND BENEFIT SIGNIFICANTLY OVER TIME FROM THE GENERAL LIBERALIZING MOVES WHEREVER THEY COME, THE DEVELOPMENT OF A SERIES OF CODES THAT WILL ESTABLISH MANY OF THE GROUND RULES FOR FUTURE TRADING TRENDS, AND THE EFFORTS TO REDEFINE AND MODERNIZE THE GATT APPARATUS.

3. AMB FOGARTY OF AUSTRALIA CLEARLY APPRECIATED THE REPRESENTATIONS OF THE OTHER DELEGATION HEADS SINCE HE APPARENTLY FEELS THAT AUSTRALIA COULD BENEFIT FROM A MORE ACTIVE AND OUTGOING PARTICIPATION BEYOND JUST THE DISCUSSIONS IN THE THREE AGRICULTURAL GROUPS.

4. GARLAND HAD NO PARTICULAR MESSAGES TO CONVEY AND SEVERAL TIMES REPEATED THAT HIS MAIN PURPOSE FOR THIS WORLDWIDE SWING WAS TO BECOME PERSONALLY ACQUAINTED WITH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HIS NEW RESPONSIBILITIES AND TO LEARN AS MUCH AS HE CAN FIRST-HAND ABOUT THE SITUATION AND THE OPTIONS OPEN TO AUSTRALIA. MCDONALD

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